

DOE Weekly Field Memo – March 4, 2009

IMPORTANT REMINDER: The DOE Weekly Field Memo is the main communication from the department to the field. We make every effort to make this as efficient as possible. It has come to our attention that some administrators are still not reviewing the field memo, and are therefore missing important and timely information. Please contact me if you are aware of an incorrect or missing e-mail address for a recipient. You are welcome to add recipients, such as administrative assistants, to the list if that is helpful in getting the information to the right person in your building.

Thank you,
Jill Remick

From the Department:

- Grant Opportunity – Indoor Air Quality
- Vermont Kindergarten Conference
- Investigating Complaints of Harassment in Schools
- Time Study Review Training
- Informational Meeting on Free Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Materials and Training for Grades 1- 6 Classrooms
- Annual New England Arts Assessment Institute
- Press Release: Engineering and Design Student Winners to be Recognized at Statehouse
- Student Support Team Newsletter
- Reminder: Public Comment Opportunity: Proposed Changes to Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) Licensing Regulations (Rule 5100)
- Reminder: April 2009 Vermont Professional Development Network Meetings for *Math and Science*
- Reminder: April 2009 Vermont Professional Development Network Meetings for *Literacy*

Grant Opportunity - Indoor Air Quality

Audience: Principals, Business Managers, Facility Directors

The Vermont Department of Health is accepting grant proposals from supervisory unions and school districts to promote improved air quality and environmental health in school buildings. The grant application can be found at www.healthvermont.gov/enviro/envision and questions should be directed to Amanda Lascale at alascal@vdh.state.vt.us.

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, school construction consultant, at (802) 828-5402 or cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us.

Vermont Kindergarten Conference

Audience: Kindergarten Teachers, Early Educators and Interested Others

The 17th Annual Vermont Kindergarten Conference will be held April 3, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington. For more information and to register visit:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#kid_con

Contact: Shirley Rawson at (802) 828-5128 or shirley.rawson@state.vt.us for registration questions or Manuela Fonseca at (802) 828-3850 or manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us for content questions

Investigating Complaints of Harassment in Schools: Who, What, Where, and How?

Audience: School Administrators, Designated Employees, and Any Other School Staff Who May be Involved in the Investigation of Complaints of Harassment

Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. at Stanley Hall (first floor), Waterbury

This workshop, presented by the Vermont Human Rights Commission and the Vermont Department of Education, is designed for school administrators, designated employees and any other school staff who may be involved in the investigation of complaints of harassment. The goals of the workshop are to provide participants with a brief overview and update of the law and a review of the 2007 model harassment policy, and then to focus primarily on skills development: conducting complaint intakes, developing investigation plans, interviewing tips and techniques and analyzing information and writing investigative reports. The workshop utilizes an interactive format and includes case study reviews and role plays. The cost is \$22 per person and includes lunch and materials. The workshop is limited to 40 participants. View further information at

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#complaints>.

Contact: Ms. Jerri Lamson at the Vermont Human Rights Commission at (800) 416-2010, x25 or jerri.lamson@state.vt.us.

Time Study Review Training

Audience: Special Education Administrators and Business Managers

The Vermont Department of Education's Special Education Auditors are offering several training opportunities for special education administrators and other personnel responsible for reviewing time studies. They will include an overview of the review process, followed by hands-on training, using actual time studies. Please bring a handful of time studies from your own supervisory union/district (including both "Core" and "Non-Core" Staff) to be reviewed at the training. Trainings will be held at our Route 302, Berlin location, in The Cavern conference room on Friday, March 20, 2009 from 1:00-4:30 p.m., April 3, 2009 from 1:00-4:30 p.m., and April 17, 2009 from 1:00-4:30 p.m. Advance registration is requested, due to seating limitations. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#time>.

Contact: Erica Foley at (802) 828-0569 or erica.foley@state.vt.us to register.

Informational Meeting on Free Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Materials and Training for Grades 1- 6 Classrooms

Audience: Principals and Curriculum Coordinators (or a representative)

Administrators and curriculum coordinators are invited to attend a two-hour informational workshop on March 30 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. Vermont has received a grant for the training of 24 elementary science teachers in the use of *Engineering is Elementary* instructional materials, designed by the Boston Museum of Science. Each unit integrates literacy, science and mathematics and incorporates an engaging, design-engineering component aligned with science GEs. Selected teachers will attend a two-day workshop in June that provides free training and instructional materials. For additional information and a link for the March 30 registration, go to:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#stem>.

Contact: Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us.

Annual New England Arts Assessment Institute

Audience: Art, Music, Theatre and Dance Educators

The Fourth Annual New England Arts Assessment Institute will be held on August 4-7, 2009 at Castleton State College, Castleton. A collaboration of the Vermont and New Hampshire Departments of Education and supported by the New England Arts Assessment Network and Castleton State College, this high quality professional development training is available at the beginner, intermediate and experienced levels to K-16 music, visual art, theatre and dance teachers. Our faculty and staff are recognized regionally and nationally as experts in the field of arts assessment. Three graduate credits are available through the Center for Schools at Castleton State College. Get the brochure and registration materials at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#arts>.

Contact: Gail Kilkelly, Coordinator for Arts and World Languages at (802) 828-6560 or gail.kilkelly@state.vt.us.

Press Release: Engineering and Design Student Winners to be Recognized at Statehouse

Audience: All

Five South Burlington High School students will be recognized by Lt. Governor Brian Dubie and Commissioner Armando Vilaseca for winning the first ever Vermont Real World Design Challenge on Friday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cedar Creek Room at the Statehouse. The team will now travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national event. View the complete release at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

Student Support Team Newsletter – Volume III, Issue 1 February 2009

Audience: Special Educators

The Student Support Team Newsletter is now available. Read through for information on Data Analysis and Reporting, Focused Monitoring Update, Transition Resources, Assistive Technology and the Solid Foundation Program. View the complete newsletter at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_spед.html#newsletter.

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us.

Reminder: Public Comment Opportunity: Proposed Changes to Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) Licensing Regulations (Rule 5100)

Audience: Educators

Act 214 of the 2006 Vermont legislative session mandated the VSBPE to develop a code of professional ethics and act as an advisor to professional educators regarding its interpretation. The statement of fundamental principles, which all Vermont educators should follow, includes an enumeration of examples of unprofessional conduct which could subject an educator to licensing action. The technical corrections portion of these regulations clarifies rules relating to Career and Technical Education endorsements. The Praxis I waiver requirements put into regulation current Standards Board policies relating to exempting from Praxis I, individuals with disabilities who meet other conditions. Public Comment Period: February 4, 2009 through March 9, 2009. For more information, visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_prostandards/vsbpe/vsbpe.html#comment_5100.

Contact: Bob Gross at (802) 828-6544 or at bob.gross@state.vt.us.

Reminder: April 2009 Vermont Professional Development Network Meetings for Math and Science

Audience: Classroom Teachers, Curriculum Coordinators, Principals, Independent School Educators

The spring combined math and science network meetings are entitled "Problem-Solving Using 21st Century Skills." Peter Drescher and Arlyn Bruccoli, DOE technology integration specialists, will begin the meeting with an overview of 21st century skills. Following the opening session, participants will take part in two self-selected workshops addressing math, science or integrated math/science content. Registration and detailed descriptions of workshop choices are available on the department Web site at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vpdn_math.

Contact: Gail Hall at (802) 828-0156 or gail.hall@state.vt.us, Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or

kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us or Denise Maurice (802) 828-2173 or denise.maurice@state.vt.us.

Reminder: April 2009 Vermont Professional Development Network Meetings for Literacy

Audience: Classroom Teachers, Curriculum Coordinators, Principals, Independent School Educators

VPDN meetings provide best practices in the instruction and assessment of literacy in a supportive environment in which colleagues in the teaching profession across Vermont learn with and from each other. Registration and descriptions of literacy network meeting content are available on the department Web site at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vpdn_literacy.

Contact: Lindy Johnson at (802) 828-6562 or lindy.johnson@state.vt.us, or Marty Gephart at (802) 828-1462 or marty.gephart@state.vt.us.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.